

Zul Qarnayn

I will now set out the meanings of the verses in *Sura' al-Kahf* which relate the story of Zul Qarnayn, and the prophecy they contain about me, of which I have been informed by God Almighty. I do not deny the meaning of these verses which relates to the past, but what has been revealed to me is about the future.

Prophecy about the Promised Messiah in Sura' al-Kahf

The Holy Quran is not a book of old stories. Every event mentioned in it is a prophecy, and the story of Zul Qarnayn contains the prophecy about the time of the Promised Messiah. *The Holy Quran* says 'They enquire from thee about Zul Qarnayn. Tell them that for the moment I shall relate to only you a little about him'.¹ Then it says 'We shall establish him on Earth, that is the Promised Messiah, who will also be known as Zul Qarnayn, in such a way that no one will be able to harm him; and We shall provide him with all the means for achieving his purpose and shall make everything easy and plain for him.'² Remember, the same revelation concerning me was published in the previous volumes of *Brahin e Ahmadiyyah*, in which God Almighty said 'Have We not made everything easy for you?' Have We not provided you with all the means for the communication and propagation of the truth? Of course, I have been provided with all the means for the propagation of the truth which were not even available at the time of any other Prophet. Means of communication have opened between nations; travel has become so easy that a journey of years now takes only a few days; transmission of news is such that within minutes messages can be sent over thousands of miles; ancient texts of nations which were out of sight have begun to be published; means have become available for the delivery of everything where it is needed; difficulties in the publication of books have been removed with the introduction of the printing press, so much so that more copies of a book can be printed in 10 days than was previously possible in 10 years! A piece of writing can now be published throughout the world within 40 days, whereas previously a man could not achieve this even in a hundred years.

Then Allah says in *The Holy Quran* 'When Zul Qarnayn (who is the Promised Messiah), is furnished with all the means, he will follow a certain path, (he will resolve to reform the people of the West). He will find that the sun of truth and righteousness has set in a muddy pool, near which he will find a people in the darkness. These are the Christians of the West who will be steeped in darkness; they will have no sun to get light from, nor will they have clean water to drink, both in practice and doctrine they will be in a terrible state; they will be bereft of spiritual light and spiritual water. Then We shall say to Zul Qarnayn (the Promised Messiah): It is up to you either to punish them (as is narrated in the authentic *Ahadith*) or to treat them with kindness. Zul Qarnayn (the Promised Messiah) will say: We only desire the wrongdoers to be punished. They will be punished in this life (through our supplications), and will suffer severe torment in the hereafter. But whosoever does not deny the truth and does

¹ *The Holy Quran*. al-Kahf [The Cave]: 84.

This points to the fact that the story of Zul Qarnayn is not only that of the past but that Zul Qarnayn is also to appear in the future and that the story of the previous one is but a small part of it.

² *The Holy Quran*. al-Kahf [The Cave]: 85.

good deeds will have their reward. They will be required only to do what can be done with facility and ease.’³

In short, these verses contain a prophecy that the Promised Messiah will appear at a time when the people of the West will be steeped in darkness. The sun of truth will completely disappear from their eyes and will set in a dirty, stinking pool (instead of truth, they will be infested with foul beliefs and deeds). That will be the water they will drink. They will have no light whatsoever and will wallow in darkness. This exactly is the condition of the Christian faith today, as described by *The Holy Quran*, and the great centre of Christianity is also in the Western countries. Then God Almighty says: That is, Zul Qarnayn (the Promised Messiah who will be equipped with every means) shall follow another path, (he will observe the state of the people of the East) and will discover a people at the place of the rising of the sun of truth who will be so ignorant that they will have no means of protecting themselves from the glare of the sun (they will be scorched by the heat generated by their adherence to the letter and their extremism) and they will be unaware of the truth. Zul Qarnayn (the Promised Messiah) will have all the means of true peace and happiness of which We are aware, but the people will not accept them. They will have no shelter against the glare of their extremism—neither houses, nor shady trees nor suitable clothes to protect them from the heat. In this way the rising sun of truth will bring about their ruin.’⁴

This is an instance of people who have the light of the sun of guidance available to them, and who are not like those whose sun has set, but they derive no benefit from the sun of guidance; only their skins are scorched, their complexion is darkened and they lose their eyesight.⁵

This division indicates that the Promised Messiah will encounter 3 kinds of people in the course of his mission. (1) First, he will encounter a people who have lost the sun of guidance and are wallowing in a muddy and dark pool. (2) His second encounter will be with a people who are sitting in the sun stark naked, they do not behave with respect, humility, courtesy and goodwill. They are worshippers of the letter, as if they want to fight the sun. Thus they too are deprived of the benefit of the sun, and all they get is their skins burnt. This refers to the Muslims among whom the Promised Messiah appeared but they denied him and opposed him and did not behave with modesty and fairness and consequently deprived themselves of good fortune. Then Allah Almighty further says: Zul Qarnayn (the Promised Messiah) will then follow another course and will find himself at a very critical time, which can be described as between 2 barriers or mountains. This means that he will find a time when people on either side will be in fear and the powers of darkness, in collaboration with the powers of state, will present an awe-striking spectacle. Under both these powers he will find a people who will find it difficult to understand him, they will be the victims of false beliefs on account of which they will find it difficult to understand the guidance which he will present to them. But in the end they will understand him. These are the third kind of people who will benefit from the guidance of the Promised Messiah. They will say to him: Zul Qarnayn, Gog and Magog have filled the land with disorder. If you so please, let us collect a fund for you so that

³ *The Holy Quran*. al-Kahf [The Cave]: 86 - 89.

⁴ *The Holy Quran*. al-Kahf [The Cave]: 90 - 92.

⁵ Here God Almighty wishes to impart that there would be 3 factions at the time of the Promised Messiah. One faction will take the path of deflation. Thus losing all light. The second faction will adopt the path of inundation and would not derive benefit from the light through condescension and humility and meekness but would stand in a state of nakedness before the spiritual sunlight bedazzled like one who is a competitor. However a third faction would be in a middling state. They would look to the Promised Messiah to be saved from the onslaughts of God and Magog and God-Magog is derived from the word *Ajij*. That is a people who are experts in utilising firepower.

you may erect a barrier between them and us.' He will say in reply: 'The power God has given me is better than your funds, but if you be so inclined, you can help me according to your means so that I may erect a wall between you and your opponents (he would put forth such conclusive proofs and arguments that their enemies will not be left with any ground for criticism or objection against their religion.) He will say to them: 'Bring me slabs of iron so that their movement can be stopped (hold fast to my teachings and my arguments, be steadfast, and block the enemy's onslaught like a wall of iron). Then blow fire into the iron until it appears to be fire itself (feed the flames of love for God until you yourselves assume the Divine complexion).⁶ It should be remembered that it is the very attribute of the love of God Almighty that the Divine attributes are born in the lover. Until such a time it is just a false claim of loving. The example of perfect love is exactly like the state of iron when it is put into the fire and fire penetrates into it in such a way that it turns fiery itself. So although it is iron in itself and not fire but because the fire has influenced it to the utmost so it displays the attributes of fire. Like fire it can burn one. Like fire it contains light. Thus is the reality of Divine love that one derives its hues and Islam would have been futile if it had been unable to cause one to reach this reality but Islam does position one onto this reality. Firstly one should become like iron in one's steadfastness and in strength of belief because if the state of one's belief is like dirt and dust it would burn upon the first touch of fire. How then can one personify the fire? It is to be pitied that some ignorant people not having understood the bond of devotion with the Lord which creates in one reflections of the Divine attributes have mocked this revelation I received from Allah that 'Your method is that when You have determined upon a thing, You direct it: Be; and it is'. This is the Word of God Almighty which was vouchsafed to me it is no from me and it has been verified by the Sufi masters of Islam just as Syed Abdul Qadir of Gilan has written in *Revelations of the Unseen* and it is really wonderful that Syed Abdul Qadir of Gilan has also presented this same verse by way of example. How one pities those who confine themselves to customary belief and consider that alone to be sufficient which is in fact nothing and consider it disbelief to be fully immersed in Gnosis and they deny that God Almighty can hold categorical and certain converse with any person after the Holy Prophet ﷺ. This much they do think that hearts can be inspired but it is not known whether that inspiration is Satanic or from the Gracious One and they do not understand what benefit and improvement such an inspiration can grant to the nature of one's belief, when in fact such an inspiration is a mere trial which threatens to derange one or deprive of one's belief because if in such doubtful revelation which may come from Satan or from the Gracious One, one is emphatically commanded to do something and if one does not do it thinking it to be the command of Satan when it was in fact a command from God then such a deviation would be cause for tribulation. Then if one carries it out what was in fact the command of Satan one's belief is gone to waste. So those are better off who are deprived of such revelations of whose recipients Satan can partake. The rational mind cannot even decide in such states of belief for it is possible that there be some Divine discourse as was vouchsafed to the mother of Moses (peace be upon him) to comply with which jeopardised the life of her child or as was the revelation of Khizr (peace be upon him) which apparently took the life of an innocent for no apparent reason and because such precepts are against the injunctions of Sharia' so who would act upon them due to the probability of Satanic intervention and in case of non-conformity fall into vexation. It is also possible that Satan the accursed command something which does not apparently contradict the Sharia' but in fact be the cause of great strife and destruction or contain hidden aspects that serve to eradicate one's faith. So what good can such a converse ever hold?

⁶ *The Holy Quran*. al-Kahf [The Cave]: 93 - 103.

After these verses, God Almighty goes on to say: Then Zul Qarnayn (the Promised Messiah) will say to the people who are afraid of Gog and Magog: 'Bring me copper so that I may melt it and pour it over the wall. Thereafter, Gog and Magog will not have the power to scale it or to bore holes into it.'

Here it should be noted that though iron assumes the qualities of fire when left in it for a long time, it does not melt easily. Copper, on the other hand, melts very quickly; and it is necessary for a seeker to melt in the path of God. This means that the Promised Messiah will need such eager hearts and mild dispositions as would melt under the influence of Divine signs. These signs have no effect on the hard-hearted. A person can only become immune to Satanic attacks when he becomes steadfast like iron and that iron becomes like fire when touched by the fire of Divine love, and then the melted heart should melt and cover the iron to secure it against disintegration and decay. These are the 3 conditions which, when combined, form a wall which cannot be scaled or bored through by the spirit of Satan. Then God says that all this will come about by His grace. It is His hands which will accomplish everything and human design will have no part in it. When the Day of Judgement approaches, mischief will reign supreme once again. This is the promise of God.

The Time of the Promised Messiah

Then He says that at the time of Zul Qarnayn (Promised Messiah) all people will rise up in support of their own religion and will attack each other like the waves of the sea. Then the trumpet will be blown in heaven, God will raise the Promised Messiah and create a third people for whom He will show great signs until all good people gather under the banner of Islam. They will respond to the call of the Promised Messiah and will run towards him; then there will be only one shepherd and one flock. Those days will be hard and God will reveal His countenance with awe-striking signs. Those who persist in disbelief will experience hell in this very world in the shape of calamities. God says: These are the people whose eyes were veiled against My Words, and their ears heeded not My commandments. Did the disbelievers imagine that they could take humble men to be God and that I should stand dismissed? We shall reveal hell in this very world as entertainment for the disbelievers, great and terrible signs will appear.

All these signs will testify to the truth of the Promised Messiah. See, how the grace of the Beneficent One has bestowed all these favours on this humble one, who is labelled a disbeliever and deceiver by his adversaries!

Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad. *Brahin e Ahmadiyya*: v. (Anwar Ahmadiyya Machine Press, 1905). *Ruhani Khazain*: xxi. 119 – 126).